



# Kensington & Chelsea

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# NEWS

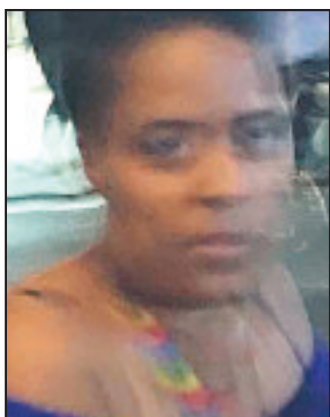
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Thursday, July 16th 2015

● ATTACKED IN THE KFC QUEUE IN LEICESTER SQUARE

## Police hunt 'girl gang' after MP's son is assaulted



■ CCTV images (above and right) of girl gang members released by police.

 ● By LWN reporter **GEOFF BAKER**  
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

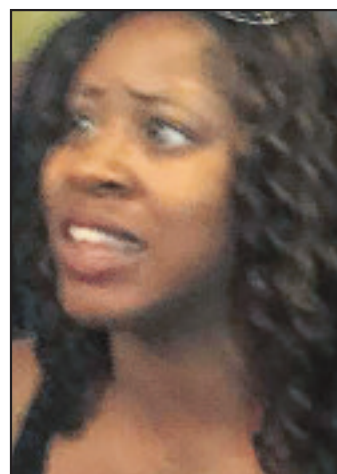
POLICE have released photographs of women they are seeking after the son of Kensington MP Victoria Borwick was beaten up by a girl gang in Leicester Square.

Tom Borwick was attacked after a clash with three women in a KFC outlet ended with him being kicked in the head and rushed to hospital unconscious.

A spokesman for Victoria Borwick told worried well-wishers: "Tom's alright now, but he's had a nasty shock".

Twenty seven-year-old Mr Borwick, a computer app writer, and a female friend were attacked after clashing with three women in the queue at KFC.

Mr Borwick became involved in a row over a lack of space with three women, aged 20-30. He told police one woman pushed and kicked him and then launched an unprovoked attack. One of the women punched and shouted at him until he was held by KFC security staff and turned out onto the pavement with the attack con-



tinuing.

Mr Borwick alleged that the security staff ignored his cries for help while as he was being punched.

He said he ran to the rope barrier at the Grosvenor Casino and called for help. He was allowed to stay behind the barrier for a short while but he claimed security then moved him back onto the street where the women continued to attack him.

### Kicked in the head

Mr Borwick, who has had heart surgery in the past, suffered heart palpitations as he attempted to shield a girlfriend. But the attack made him collapse to the ground where the women kicked and punched him in the head.

Mr Borwick and his friend were both treated for cuts and



■ KENSINGTON MP Victoria Borwick - calling for more safe havens in London.

bruising in hospital.

Now, as latest figures from the Met reveal that there were 160 violent attacks in the West End in May, Victoria Borwick is calling for more safety zones

to be set up as a refuge for those trying to escape assaults.

Before her son's assault, the MP and Kensington councillor who was elected to the House of Commons in May had put her backing to the CitySafe Havens scheme. The havens are designated places of safety where people feeling threatened or in danger can go for safety.

The havens display a purple badge in their windows and there are currently 600 across the capital. However, there is no CitySafe Haven in the West End. The closest one to Leicester Square is in Euston Station. Now Lady Borwick is calling for more havens to be established in the West End.

She said: "Londoners and

■ TURN TO PAGE 3

**INSIDE THE  
CITY'S  
FREE WEEKLY**


Will YOU receive a Queen's birthday lunch invitation?

– see page 13



Mica Paris: my new love affair with the theatre (and Elvis)

– see page 20

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## SCHOLARSHIPS PROVE A SOUND MOVE FOR YOUNG LONDONERS

# Chorus of approval for music scheme

A GROUP of 40 talented young Londoners came together at City Hall earlier this month to perform a specially commissioned piece in celebration of the completion of their four-year Mayor's Music Fund Scholarship.

The ensemble included young musicians Selma Fitwi, Justine Kwezi and Isis Bynoe, who all attend the Tri Borough Music Education Hub.

Composed by Danyal Dhondy, the performance of *Get Up On Your Feet!* was conducted by Tom Seligman and took place in front of Mayor's Music Fund supporters, representatives from all of London's music hubs, family and friends. The renowned young clarinettist Julian Bliss also took part in the performance and spoke to the scholars and assembled guests.

The Wednesday, July 1st graduation event and newly commissioned piece was sponsored by The Boltini Trust, with support from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

The Mayor's Music Fund provides four-year scholarships to primary school children across



FROM THE  
MAYOR'S  
OFFICE

the 32 London boroughs.

The fund currently supports 260 talented children in the capital through a four-year programme that nurtures and develops their musical potential.

As Mayor's Music Scholars they receive over two hours of music-making and other developmental activities every week, plus lots of opportunities to perform in public and to attend concerts and live gigs. Crucially, every scholar has a personal mentor, who is the

link between the child and parent, school, music hub and the fund.

Graduating scholars' achievements include gaining places at prestigious independent

schools, representing the fund in Simon Rattle's Young Orchestra for London and performing in the 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony.

Mayor's Music Fund Chief Executive Ginny Greenwood commented: "We were delighted to celebrate the achievements of our graduating scholars."

"They have embraced all of the playing and performance opportunities made available to them through our scheme, and the graduation event was the perfect opportunity to share their achievements with everyone who has supported them on their four-year journey."

Mayor's Music Fund Ambassador Julian Bliss said: "Being a part of such an amazing organisation is a real pleasure. It's incredibly important to nurture the next generation of musicians and provide them with as many opportunities as possible."

"The Mayor's Music Fund does exactly that. I extend huge congratulations to our graduating scholars and wish them every success for the future."

Graduating scholar Louis Lodder explained: "In four years I've been taught by amazing musicians, gone from studying Grade 1 to Grade 5

and learned so much. My experience as a Mayor's Music Scholar has made me very sure I want to be a professional musician."

The Mayor's Music Fund, also formally known as the Mayor of London's Fund for Young Musicians, was founded in May 2011. It is a registered charity – independent of the Greater London Authority – established to support and benefit young musicians across the capital, especially those who come from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

The fund works with every London borough to provide outstanding progression and development opportunities to children and young people who demonstrate that they have a musical talent and a commitment to learning an instrument.

Activities include awarding four-year scholarships to primary school children who are identified as having potential but whose families struggle to pay for their on-going lessons.

The fund also supports partnerships between music services and London's top professional arts organisations, providing thousands of seven to 18-year-old musicians with opportunities for musical development.



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## Hospital friends close in on vital fundraising goal

FUNDRAISERS, medical professionals and patients came together last week to salute the work of the Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals – and to look ahead to the completion this autumn of a pioneering new operating theatre.

The hospitals' charity hosted a summer garden party at London's historic Chelsea Physic Garden on Thursday, July 2, welcoming over 300 donors, patients, surgeons and other special guests.

Also present was the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, councillor Robert Freeman, who this year chose Royal Brompton Hospital as joint recipient of funds from his mayoral appeal to support research into lung cancer.

The garden party was an opportunity for the charity to update supporters on their appeal to raise £4.5m for Royal Brompton's Hybrid Theatre, which when completed in October, will be the largest of its kind in the UK. The new theatre will combine complex imaging equipment in an environment where different surgical procedures can take place at the same time, speeding up operations and meaning patients can benefit from less invasive surgery.

Caroline Mackinnon from the Friends of Royal Brompton was pleased to present a cheque for £32,000 to charity chief executive Gill Raikes and charity chairman Richard Hunting, which will contribute to buying an operating table for the theatre.

Also speaking on the night was Royal Brompton patient, Lucy White, who gave a moving speech on the treatment that she and her family have received at the hospital. Lucy's brother collapsed and almost died at the age of 18 as a result of an undiagnosed, inherited heart condition that was later found to affect her and her parents, but thanks to regular testing and treatments at Royal Brompton their condition is being successfully managed.

● The charity supports Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals by buying equipment, funding vital research and improving the lives of patients with heart and lung conditions in areas that the NHS is unable to stretch to.



■ Hospital charity chief executive Gill Raikes, on the left in our main picture, with Royal Brompton patient Lucy Fenner. Inset above: Gill with charity chairman Richard Hunting and Caroline Mackinnon from the Friends of Royal Brompton.



## MP's son attacked by girl gang

FROM PAGE 1

visitors have got to feel there's somewhere safe to go."

She added: "What shook Tom the most was that in somewhere like KFC you don't expect the security guards to push you out into the street.

"It's not like this was at 2 am in some dark alley, it's a busy area. When Tom realised he was being attacked he ran to the casino next door, and again he thought he would be safe.

"But he couldn't find a place of safety. I realise this sort of thing happens all the time, it's all part of street crime, but when you go out in London you want to feel safe and you want your children to be safe."

## First Red Cross fete

THE British Red Cross in Kensington and Chelsea are holding their first summer fete on Saturday (July 18th).

Being held at the British Red Cross shop in Old Church Street, Chelsea, the fete will run from 12 noon to 6 pm and will provide the opportunity to snap up a bargain.

Designer wear will be on sale with items from Alexander McQueen, Marni, Belleville Sasson, Louis Vuitton, Pucci, Gucci and many more.

There will also be an extensive range of food on sale and afternoon tea provided by the Dorchester Hotel. Top prize in the raffle will be tea for four at the Intercontinental Hotel in Park Lane.

Entry to the fete is free.

# Builders hit by wall of silence

NOISY builders in Kensington and Chelsea will no longer be allowed to shout, play radios or work on local children's birthdays if residents approve a new "pipe down plan" proposed by the royal borough's council.

Following 10,000 complaints over noise caused by construction work in the borough, councillors are poised to bring in a string of new rules that would ban noisy builders on Saturdays.

The council has launched a consultation on proposals that would reduce the number of hours that noisy building work can take place during the week.

If residents back the draft Code of Construction Practice, builders will be forced to stop all noisy work half an hour earlier during the week and would have to work silently at weekends.

At present, noisy construction work is allowed from 8am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday and from 8am to 1pm on Saturdays. But the council has been inundated with complaints from residents upset by the din – with around 10,000 a year calling on the council to stop the racket.

Now the authority wants to in-

By LWN reporter GEOFF BAKER  
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

roduce a hush-hush policy that would mean all noisy construction work stops at 6pm on weekdays and would not be allowed on Saturdays.

Councillor Tim Ahern, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Environmental Health, said: "Construction work is part and parcel of everyday life, but in such a densely populated borough as Kensington and Chelsea it is very important that we do whatever we can to make sure disruption to residents' lives is minimised.

"We think the proposals contained in our draft Code of Construction Practice are sensible and recognise the need to undertake noisy and dusty work but focus the minds of developers and builders to the need to communicate clearly and mitigate, wherever possible, the impact their works are having."

But the proposals may come as a shock to builders, who have traditionally listened to and sung along with pop music as they work. The council wants builders to turn off radios, not to

yell and to be better mannered to residents.

"Contractors shall ensure that all staff on site do not shout or play amplified music, and are courteous and respectful," reads one clause in the 72-page draft document.

The council proposes that any builders working on properties outside of the new quiet times would have to restrict any noise they make to less than that made having a shave.

The new code is advising a noise restriction level of 70 decibels – 10 decibels less than that made by an electric shaver. The new noise levels would mean no sandblasting [115 db], no hand-drilling [98 db] and no using power saws [110 db] unless silencers are fitted to the machines and noise-reduction screens are used.

If approved, the new rules would also compel builders to first check with neighbours for the dates of their children's birthdays before starting work – and in case a wake is being held.

Comments on the draft Code of Construction Practice can be made until Wednesday, October 21st. At the end of the consultation period the code may be

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# Warwick Road properties get a makeover

THE appearance and condition of several properties on Warwick Road in Earl's Court has improved in the past year following advice and warnings from the Royal Borough



■ BEFORE ...

## Excellent results

TEACHERS and pupils in Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's primary schools have cause to celebrate after provisional Key Stage 2 (age 11) results were published last week by the Department for Education.

The provisional results show that 90 per cent of children in the borough achieved the expected Level 4+ in Key Stage 2 reading, writing and mathematics, up from 85 per cent last year.

Commenting on the results, Councillor Emma Will, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "Once again I have the pleasure of saying well done to the teachers and pupils in our primary schools.

"These are excellent results and confirm that an education in a Royal Borough school stands out as being amongst the very best in the country."

## By LWN reporter

of Kensington and Chelsea's planning enforcement team.

A number of properties on Warwick Road were inspected in August 2014 after officers noted the condition and appearance of several houses deteriorating, making the street look rundown in comparison to the rest of the Royal Borough.

The appearance of six properties in particular was having a negative impact on the rest of the street. Of-



... AND AFTER

ficers wrote to the owners to warn them that legal notices would be served under section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 if they did not improve and maintain their properties.

### Legal notices

By November 2014 recommended work had been completed on two of the properties. However, no improvement was seen in the remaining four properties leading to planners serving legal notices on the owners.

An inspection for compliance with the notices this week revealed the required works had been done on three of the four properties. Works on the final property are very close to completion. No legal action will

be taken against the owners of this property so long as the works are completed over the next couple of weeks.

Councillor Timothy Coleridge, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, said "Kensington and Chelsea is a beautiful borough with some very elegant streets. Unfortunately these can be spoiled by just a few neglected properties.

"The Council's planners will be on the lookout for properties that are falling into a state of disrepair and will advise owners about the need



## NEWS FROM NICK ...

with Nicholas Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

## Big names will be cycling through out streets again

A FEW years back I'd have been hard put to name a professional cyclist, let alone a British one and now the names seem to trip off the tongue – Sir Bradley Wiggins and Mark Cavendish to name but two. And these two stellar performers will be seen in the borough in a matter of weeks and they won't be alone.

Both will be part of a 150-strong field of professional cyclists taking part in the *Prudential RideLondon Classic* on Sunday, August 2nd. If that's not enough to whet the appetite there will also be the small matter of over 25,000 amateur cyclists riding in the *Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100* on the same day, and along the same route, as the professionals.

It's the third year running that these intrepid amateurs and top-flight pros have come through the borough and while both events provide excitement and spectacle, and the amateurs raise literally millions of pounds for good causes, there will be major disruption to traffic and public transport.

Put simply, you can't close over 100 miles of road from east London out to Box Hill in Surrey without it having quite an impact. The advice from the event organisers and TfL is to plan ahead by familiarising your-

self with the route and road closure timings. If you happen to be a Chelsea supporter heading over to Wembley for the football season's curtain raiser, the Community Shield, which is taking place on the same day, you will need to plan your travel carefully to avoid what could be long delays on the roads.

The cyclists' route through Kensington and Chelsea will be the same as last year for both events.

**It's the third year running that these intrepid amateurs and top-flight pros have come through the borough and while both events provide excitement and spectacle, and the amateurs raise literally millions of pounds for good causes, there will be major disruption to traffic and public transport**

Both groups of riders will enter the Royal Borough at Knightsbridge and then head, via Brompton Road, to the Cromwell Road (A4) before continuing westwards into Hammersmith. They will return later in the day via King's Road, Ashburnham Road, Cremorne Road, Cheyne Walk and Chelsea Embankment where they leave the borough for a finish on The Mall. To enable the event to pass off safely there will be significant road closures across London and in Surrey. It is expected that roads will close from 5am on Sunday,

August 2nd on the outbound route, with an estimated reopening time of 3pm. Closures on the return route will begin from 7am and it is hoped to be able to reopen roads by about 8pm.

Further information about the event and the route and confirmation of road closure and reopening times can be found at [www.PrudentialRideLondon.co.uk/roadclosures](http://www.PrudentialRideLondon.co.uk/roadclosures)

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## ● TRANSPORT CHIEFS URGED TO MODIFY DOUBLE DECKER'S TOP WINDOWS

# Health safety alarm onboard capital's 'Roastmaster' buses

● By LWN reporter **GEOFF BAKER**  
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

PASSENGERS on "Roastmaster" buses could die from heat-stroke unless urgent action is taken to cool the coaches, London Mayor Boris Johnson has been warned.

Temperatures on the top decks of the new Routemaster buses have reached 36C in the last fortnight – six degrees over the legal limit for transporting cattle. Fears are growing that the stifling heat on the upper decks – where the windows do not open – could kill passengers as temperatures in the capital are set to rise even more next month.

GLA Environment Committee chairman Darren Johnson has called on the Mayor to order urgent alterations to the air-controlled buses or risk the loss of life.

Mr Johnson, Leader of the Green group on the GLA, is also demanding that Transport for London issues posters at bus stops and inside the coaches warning passengers of the health risks of travelling by bus on hot days.



■ **SWEAT, SWEAT, SWEAT:** Routemaster bus passengers are complaining about stifling heat on the upper deck.

"Given the temperatures that have been recorded I am worried that more vulnerable groups such as those with respiratory problems may be taken seriously ill – or even worse, may die – as a result of the heat on these buses," said Mr Johnson.

According to doctors, there is a "high risk" of heat-related illness in unventilated spaces of 31C and an "extreme risk" when temperatures rise to 36C. The heat can affect asth-

matics and those with high blood pressure and heart complaints.

"Temperatures of 36 degrees and above are being recorded by passengers on the top deck of New Bus for London vehicles," said Mr Johnson.

"Given that these temperatures could have a serious impact on the health of some passengers, shouldn't TfL be providing advice on this matter, either through posters at bus stops, signs on buses or automated

announcements on the buses themselves?"

Bus passengers are now travelling in conditions that would not be allowed for cattle. According to EU rules on the welfare of animals during transport, ventilation inside cattle trucks must ensure that the temperatures remain below 30 degrees.

Mr Johnson said: "Passengers are really suffering on the top deck of these new buses. Transport for London need to consider issuing official warnings about the health risks of travelling on the New Routemasters on really hot days.

"Unless we can add some opening windows, these Roastmasters are simply not going to be fit for the future and will have no place on London's streets during the summer months in years to come. I continue to get a significant number of complaints from Londoners about this and there is a constant stream of complaints to TfL on Twitter about temperatures on the new bus."

A TfL spokesman said the authority is currently investigating new ways of cooling the buses but could not comment on whether the entire fleet would be refitted with opening windows on the top decks.



■ **THE HEAT IS ON:** Windows don't open on the upper deck of the new Routemaster bus, leaving passengers sweltering on hot days.



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# Talented sixth formers shatter the record for academy exam results

TALENTED sixth formers at Westminster Academy are celebrating the school's best-ever results.

They smashed a series of records for the academy in the International Baccalaureate diploma, IB career-related programme and vocational courses.

In the IB diploma, students achieved an average of almost 35 points, above last year's world average of 30.1, with all students passing the diploma. There was particular success for

By LWN reporter **GEOFF BAKER**  
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

three students: Gabriela Jaroszewska, Bence Koranyi and Zakri Zulkurnain, who all achieved scores of 41 points, putting them in the top 3,000 IB students in the world. Their grades are equivalent to more than four A\*s at A-level.

Sarah Al-Saad, who scored an impressive 39 points to take her on to study pharmacy at UCL, said: "Since I started in Year 7,

the school has been steadily improving each year and I feel privileged to have been part of this progression. The IB challenged us to move beyond our comfort zones, and now we feel like we can tackle anything which comes our way."

Stephen Butler, IB diploma co-ordinator, said: "The class of 2015 were quick to appreciate just how challenging this course is but they worked independently, with each other, and with their teachers to produce an exceptional set of results. I'm incredibly proud of them all."

There was great success for the academy's first full-sized cohort of IB career-related programme students too, with all students set to pass the programme and meet their university offers once BTEC results are confirmed later this summer. One student celebrating was Labinot Krasniqi, who not only achieved excellent grades in all his subjects, but beat thousands of other nominees nationally to win 2015 outstanding BTEC IT student of the year at the National BTEC Awards. He reflected: "The support I've received at Westminster Academy has been incredible."



■ **STAR PERFORMERS:** Westminster Academy students celebrate outstanding exam results

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## LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

## Thousands enjoy Celebrating Fulham



■ **WHO SAID THAT?** A ventriloquist entertains the younger audience at Parson's Green family fun day, part of Celebrating Fulham.



■ **CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY:** Crafts and preserves tempt passers-by at this stall at Parson's Green family fun day.



■ **TAKE THAT:** Sponge 'splatting' proved ever popular at the Parson's Green family fun day.

# Borough's got talent! Festival tribute to creative community



■ **BALANCING ACT:** Poise and control are ably demonstrated by this talented uni-cyclist, entertaining onlookers during the Celebrating Fulham festival.

● By LWN reporter  
**JACK DIXON**

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

**T**HOUSANDS of visitors uncovered the weird and wonderful during Fulham's annual summer celebrations.

Artistic demonstrations, musical performances and guided tours of the area's rich cultural heritage were just a handful of the many events held as part of the Celebrating Fulham festival.

Eight days of entertainment kicked off with the North End Road summer market before coming to an end with a family fun day in Parson's Green.

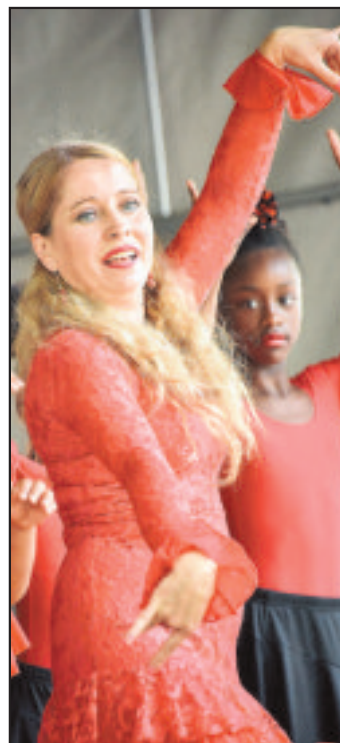
Film screenings, historical talks, wine evenings and craft clubs were also organised during a varied week of amusements designed to showcase some of Fulham's many hidden treasures.

The celebrations were rounded off with a fair on the Green last weekend, where hundreds of visitors enjoyed stalls, stage shows and rides as the borough was brought to life.

"It has been a fantastic week, catering to a really wide range of tastes," said councillor Andrew Jones, cabinet member for economic development and regeneration at Hammersmith and Fulham Council, which supported the Fulham Society and other community groups in staging this year's festival.

"It started off brilliantly, with more than 15,000 people enjoying the shopping, food and music at the North End Road traffic-free summer market and finished with the popular Fair on the Green, with some great events in between."

■ **Send your pictures of community events to the London Weekly News – email [news@londonweeklynews.co.uk](mailto:news@londonweeklynews.co.uk)**



■ **COLOURFUL EXPRESSION:** Dancers add to the colour and diversity of the cultural experience provided by Celebrating Fulham events, which combined to showcase the depth of creative talent in the borough. The week of events was widely acclaimed to be a great success.



# Cleric with a 'passion for local church' is new Bishop

THE Reverend Dr **By LWN reporter**

Graham Tomlin has been appointed the new Bishop of Kensington.

He will replace Bishop Paul Williams, who has held the post since 2009 and who has been en-

throned as the new Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham.

Bishop Tomlin, 57,

comes to Kensington from St Mellitus College, a church training institution where he has been Principal.

In announcing the new appointment, the Bishop of London, the Rt Rev Richard Chartres said: "In his many publications and in his teaching in St Mellitus College, Graham has demonstrated a generous orthodoxy which combines depth with clarity.

"He has led the way in creating an institution which has confounded the cynics and generated fresh energy for the Church's mission. He has presided over the opening of a central College campus in London, a teaching centre in Chelmsford and the development of another campus on Merseyside.

"Since his three year curacy at St Leonard's Ex-

eter, Graham has continually combined his teaching with pastoral care for those preparing for parochial and other ministries.

## Wide experience

"I know that he is much valued as a pastor whilst his involvement in his local parishes in Oxford and London, his leadership of parish mis-

sions and his participation in appointments processes have given him an unusually wide experience of parishes in many different parts of the country.

"His whole ministry in a sense has been in support of the "local church" for which he has a passion. As Area Bishop he will be able to

develop this theme in his ministry as he serves the remarkably diverse Christian communities in West London.

"As Principal of St Mellitus, Graham has been pivotal in establishing the ethos of the College as it continues to grow and inspire imitation in other parts of the country and internation-

ally. As Bishop of Kensington, Graham will cease to be Principal of St Mellitus at the end of this academic year, but will continue to be involved in a more presidential and less operational role."

The new bishop's consecration will be in Canterbury on September 23rd.



■ KENSINGTON'S new Bishop, the Reverend Dr Graham Tomlin, pictured with the Bishop of London, the Right Reverend Richard Chartres.

## False benefit claim

A WOMAN who pleaded guilty to claiming housing and council tax benefit while renting a property to tenants was given a ten month custodial sentence, suspended for two years, at Isleworth Crown Court.

Vera-Brigitte Bilek Von Sternberg (65) of Lancaster Road, W11, pleaded guilty to six charges, under the Fraud Act 2006 and Social Security and Administration Act 1992, after claiming housing and council tax benefit while renting a property in London SW10, to tenants.

An earlier hearing at Hammersmith Magistrates' Court had heard how Von Sternberg rented a property, Ivy Cottage, on Uverdale Road, SW10, to tenants and claimed benefits while keeping a bank account secret

from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. September 17th 2009 and July 13 2011, the defendant made a false representation in a housing benefit and council tax benefit application relating to Ivy Cottage when she failed to give details of a Barclays account.

Von Sternberg was similarly charged with making a false representation on February 4th 2013, in relation to a claim for benefits on the same property, by telling the council she never had subtenants, only visitors, guests, friends and members of her family.

She also claimed in a letter to the council in February 2013 that she had no income except Pension Credit and Disability Living Allowance, and also failed to declare that she had multiple subtenants that she charged rent to between September 16 2012 and September 18 2013.

## Money repaid

Von Sternberg was paid £18,767 in housing and council tax benefit over this period. All the money owed has now been repaid to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

The defendant also pleaded guilty to an additional charge that she was dishonest in failing to notify the council that she had a tenancy agreement with Anchor Trust and had moved out of Ivy Cottage into her current address.

Judge Wood said the defendant was of previous good character and showed genuine remorse for what she had done. He also noted the good character references presented by the Salvation Army.

He gave her credit for her early guilty plea which resulted in her receiving a ten month suspended sentence rather than 15 months.

## Summer ecology fun

THE Holland Park Ecology Centre's summer programme starts on Tuesday, July 28th when youngsters can learn about building animal shelters and go on a woodlouse hunt. The popular summer activity programme runs until Friday 28 August.

Five to 12 year olds can attend sessions on a variety of topics, including cunning camouflage, migration marvels, minibeast safari, call of the wild and much more.

Sessions cost £4.30 for residents and £5.50 for non-residents. Under-eights must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information and to book go to [www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecology](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecology) or email [ecology\\_centre@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:ecology_centre@rbkc.gov.uk)

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Supported by The Portobello & Golborne Management Committee

# Fresh approach to fight litter on the city streets

HUBBUB, a new charity that uses different “hubs” of activity to interest mainstream consumers in sustainability issues, is running ‘Neat Streets’, to tackle the growing problem of litter on the streets of London this summer.

The campaign is taking place in Westminster with a series of interactive installations and exhibitions in Villiers Street (near Charing Cross railway station).

Throughout the summer the campaign will be trialing new ways of encouraging people not to litter. These include initiatives that focus on specific types of litter, such as chewing gum and cigarette ends, as well as initiatives that target general litter.

To help measure the success of the project, Keep Britain Tidy who are evaluating the impact and effectiveness of the projects individual interventions, undertook a baseline evaluation of litter on Villiers Street.

The baseline evaluation found littering to be a significant problem at Villiers Street, with 31% littering their waste rather than placing it in a bin. When cigarette butts were included, this proportion increases to 62%. The evaluation makes clear that cigarette litter is a major issue at Villiers Street, representing 72% of the 6,689 litter items counted.

The research found that littering overwhelmingly occurs in the evening (22 per) and late evening (73%), and is done by people who can be described as ‘night economy users’ (72% of night time economy users littered their waste).

On the basis of this evaluation, Keep Britain Tidy has recommended that the campaign target cigarette litter interventions to the hotspots identified, and that interventions are used to leverage social influences on likely litterer’s behaviour.

The first ‘Neat Streets’ installations, introduced at the end of May included:

- A street gallery of ‘My Street is Your Street’ posters to build a sense of pride in the area
- Gumdrop on-the-go bins for chewing gum
- A ‘Peppermint Pointillist’ art installation, where people can dispose of chewing gum on crosses to reveal faces.

Research commissioned by Hubbub from Populus showed that despite the strong feelings about litter, only 15 per cent would confront someone they saw dropping it – a majority (54 per cent) would like to but would not have the nerve. Older people are most likely to confront those who litter, with one-in-five of those over 65 saying they would intervene (19 per cent) compared to fewer than one-in-ten (9 per cent) of young people aged 18-24.

## Anti-social behaviour

Responding to Keep Britain Tidy’s evaluation findings, Trewin Restorick, CEO/Founder of Hubbub said: “These findings show that littering is endemic in Villiers Street and this provides us with a real challenge to try and tackle this problem with our campaign

“Littering affects us all – making our local spaces dirtier, less welcoming, and encouraging anti-social behavior – and it’s up to all of us to take action to tackle it.

“Hubbub is seeking to create a fresh approach to fighting litter making it easier for government, businesses and local organisations to work effectively together.

“We hope that Neat Street will engage the public, raise awareness of littering and ultimately to change people’s behaviour.”



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Writing for the **London Weekly News** every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur

# Charlie Pipes Up!



## Entrepreneurial George does the business for our ‘nation of shopkeepers’

There was plenty for businesses to be pleased about in last week’s Budget. The cut in Corporation Tax will be very welcome, as of course, will be the levy on ‘big business’ to support the training of apprentices for all firms.

Much of the preview commentary surrounding the contents of George Osborne’s battered red case was that this was going to be a benefits-focused Budget. And, of course, it was.

But it was a Budget that took Britain on a journey from a benefits-addicted society through to an employment-driven country where the aspiration should be to get on and not skive off on hand-outs.

The result is, to my mind, a win for business. This has to be the first step towards creating a British talent pool where it is the norm, rather than the exception, that workers are skilled, driven and motivated.

And with the changes to the point at which employees will start paying tax, the Chancellor has presented a further incentive to choose work over benefits as well as rewarding those who have grafted during the tough times.

One of the other things that caught my eye, that was talked about before George stepped up to the despatch box but played second fiddle to some bigger announcements, was the changes to Sunday trading laws.

The Chancellor’s ‘Open All Hours’ attitude really excites the free-market

in me and will help the high street to emerge from a 1950s time warp. We’re often portrayed as a nation of shopkeepers and now is their time to break the shackles of outdated trading rules to have a more central role in the growth of the economy.

The entire retail sector can now play catch-up with the rest of the business community by devolving power to make changes to antiquated trading laws to English regions.

Just like Ronnie Barker’s Arkwright character from the BBC sitcom, George

Osborne knows exactly how much he has in his till and what he has to do to fill it.

One of the key principles of growing a business is to sell more to more people – this move hits the nail on the head and shows that we have an entrepreneurial Chancellor.

It makes no sense to me that firms pay rent and rates on their business premises, along with all the other overheads, but come Sunday there are laws stopping some busi-

nesses from actually being open. In a free economy that’s madness and a situation that was long overdue for change!

If you’re brave enough to go into business, large or small, there shouldn’t be any regulations restricting when you can sell your products or services, end of story.

It’s good for the economy and will help create more and different working hours, which for many people will allow them to better juggle work and family commitments. It’s a complete winner and shows that Britain is open for business, whatever day of the week it is!

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper



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# Landmark pub may appeal to stay open

LADBROKE Grove's landmark KPH pub is facing closure after losing a court battle to stop it being turned into flats and another estate agents shop.

Despite a long fight by residents and the council, the

**By Geoff Baker**

150-year-old bar may have to call last orders forever as the legal campaign to defy developers and stay open has already cost £200,000 - but they may appeal.

## The triumph of art therapy

TWENTY years after his experience of the horrors of genocide in the Bosnian War left him so traumatised that he had to end his career, painter David Manners will join elite artists at Chelsea Town Hall as a shining example of the triumph of art therapy.

David will be among artists from 33 countries who have been invited to exhibit at the prestigious Parallax Art Fair on July 25th-26th.

For the 53-year-old former maths teacher, showing his paintings at the fair will mark a highlight in his recovery from the horrors of the ethnic cleansing of Muslims by Bosnian Serbs which he witnessed whilst serving as helicopter crew with the Royal Navy Reserve during the atrocity-ridden war in 1995.

His horrific experiences serving during the Bosnia War left him diagnosed in 2011 with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, forcing him to quit teaching.

"I became reclusive, introspective and all appeared to be desperately dark," said David. "But in February 2012 I had a phone call from the Combat Stress charity, who suggested that I took up painting as a therapy."

"I never expected anything to come of it, the last time I had picked up a paint-brush was when I was 16 and at school in the Seventies. I remember my teacher taking one look at my work and saying, 'that painting would look quite good at a distance - try five miles.'"

Despite having to teach himself as he could not afford lessons, he began creating portraits and seascapes of his home in Lyme Regis, Dorset, and in a year completed 100 paintings. On a whim, he posted some of them on Facebook and his world changed overnight as his paintings were met with immediate acclaim, requests to buy and commissions.

The Dorset artist has now sold his work

around the globe to more than 2,000 people, including buyers in North America, South America, Australasia, Asia, Europe and Africa.

He also has a permanent exhibition in Wilmington, North Carolina, another in Durango, Mexico, and he is in talks for further exhibitions in Kentucky and Massachusetts. One of his original oil paintings now hangs in the home of an Oscar-winning Hollywood star.

"I'm not allowed to name the actor, because that was the deal that his agent insisted upon, but my painting of beach huts in Lyme Regis is hanging in Beverly Hills. It blows my mind to think of the Hollywood A-listers who might have seen it at this guy's parties," said David.

"But exhibiting in Chelsea is going to top it all. I've been very lucky and I'm forever thankful for the wonders that art can do to heal and help you."



■ FACING CLOSURE - the famous Kensington Park Hotel.

The pub's owners, SWA Developments, last week won their case against leaseholder Patrick Burke. The pub's previous and long-standing owners Punch Taverns sold the KPH freehold to SWA Developments Ltd in 2013. The new freeholder started court proceedings for Mr Burke to forfeit the lease and said that if it failed in its attempt to obtain an early termination of the KPH lease, it would refuse to grant a new lease when it comes up for renewal in January next year.

Following outcry from hundreds of residents including rock star Cerys Matthews and former Home Secretary Alan Johnson MP, along with CMRA and the Portobello Café Society, Kensington & Chelsea Council weighed in to try block the threatened development of one of West London's favourite pubs by making it an Asset of Community Value.

But although the status has given the pub some protection against development for the past six months, the court decision could overrule it.

### Social media drive

Although the KPH's leaseholder may appeal, it could cost an extra £25,000 on top of legal fees already spent.

The pub's manager Vince Power last week broke the bad news to campaigners who last year formed an action group, KPH United, and launched a social media drive to save The KPH.

Sylvia Parnell of The Portobello Society, one of the main groups pressing for the pub to say, said: "Vince gave feedback to a gathering of about 45 people. KPH lost on technicalities."

"The current owners bought the property in July 2013 and in August 2013 put plans to the council to pull the building down, get rid of the theatre room, keep the front façade and build a penthouse and rent out the ground floor to Foxtons."

"Vince's legal team think there are good grounds for an appeal, but the cost of getting permission to appeal will be £10k plus another £15k if it goes ahead and currently funds have run out. The last two years of litigation has cost £200k."

The Kensington Park Hotel was built in 1860, when there were still hayfields beyond the railway bridge. In the Forties and Fifties it was the local of Timothy Evans, who was wrongfully executed - and later pardoned - for the murder of his wife and child, crimes later attributed to another pub regular, the serial killer John Christie.

The KPH features in the movie *10 Rillington Place* which Richard Attenborough and John Hurt made about the infamous miscarriage of justice.

## Call for a ban on all builders' lorries during the rush hour

LONDON Mayor Boris Johnson is to face new pressure from MPs and thousands of cyclists for a ban on all builders' trucks from the capital during rush hour.

The move comes following an alarming rise in the death rate of cyclists in collisions with construction trucks - now running at the rate of one fatality a month.

The London Cycling Campaign group is set to launch a major drive to try to force the Mayor to ban tipper trucks from the roads between 7.30-9.30 am and 4.30-6.30 pm.

Seven cyclists of the eight cyclists killed on London roads this year have died after colliding with builders' lorries - a rise of almost 40%.

Normally, accidents involving trucks account for 50% of cycling deaths - but now the rate has shot up to 87%.

A spokesman for the cycling group said executives were to meet in the next month to decide on whether to launch an all-out campaign to get Mayor Johnson to bow to a safety drive by banning the builders at rush hour.

The group's chief executive Ashok Sinha said the death rate meant that builders may have to stay off the roads until non-peak times.

"I think there's a very strong case to ban tipper trucks especially during peak hours," said Mr Sinha.

"We do understand the construction industry needs to get its goods and services in and out of London while people are working on site - however, too many people are being killed on the streets of London by

### LONDON WIDE

collisions between cyclists and lorries."

In the past three years 35 cyclists have been killed on London's roads and now campaigners including MPs and councillors are pressuring the Mayor to order a crackdown.

Acting Labour Party leader Harriet Harman said: "I want to see London being a safe place for cyclists. That's why I strongly support Southwark Council's proposal for a 'safe cycling hour' during the morning and evening rush hour, banning HGVs on the roads at those times. People must be able to cycle to work safely."

The Labour leader is being backed in her 'make the streets safe' call by Tottenham MP David Lammy.

He said: "My view is that only by banning HGVs from London during rush hour will we give cyclists the protection they need."

"We've got to take bold decisions. Why can't deliveries be made well into the night? There are some working practices that London has got to change."

The London Cycling Campaign also wants the Mayor to implement other new measures to protect the city's cyclists.

It is calling for a 20 mph speed limit to be imposed on all roads in the city centre, a ban on all motor traffic on minor and residential roads and the installation of barriers to separate cyclists from traffic on cycling lanes on all main roads.

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# UNDER THE WESTWAY

## From SW19 to W10 - everyone for tennis

**Angela McConville, Chief Executive, Westway Trust, looks forward to hearing the views of the residents and traders who live and work under The Westway.**

**W**E make no apology for having ambition for the 23 acres of land we manage on behalf of the community, and tennis is no exception. In fact, we believe that we might even unearth the next Andy Murray here.

Westway Trust has a long and established commitment to tennis. Our tennis offer exemplifies our overall approach - enabling the local community and helping more people to reach their potential and be the best they can be.

Tennis is one of the four anchor sports that Westway Sports & Fitness specialises in and we are committed to ensuring that it is inclusive and accessible to all the community. In the last 12 months, our courts have hosted well over 100,000 people of all ages and abilities. Our approach works on the basis of understanding what local people want. We understand the different sections of our community and tailor our offer to meet their needs.

For example, our offer for disabled people is professional and offers a variety of opportunities to appeal to the many different impairments.

For the past two years we have hosted the London Youth Games Learning Disability Finals.

Success doesn't stop at a pan-London level, one of our players has been selected to represent Great Britain in the Hearing Impaired Category.

The team here has worked hard to create a beacon site for disability tennis. We offer wheelchair sessions and from September we will be offering visually impaired tennis twice a month. This autumn, tennis will be one of the main activities at our Disability Sports Festival, hosted with support from the Tennis Foundation.

As well as providing many opportunities for disabled people, we are constantly seeking new ways of engaging people on low incomes in the sport. As readers will be well aware, we care passionately about creating the economic conditions that enable us to address issues of poor health and economic disadvantage. Our model for tennis allows us to use income derived from local club players to support investment into our bursary programme. In the last two years 17 individual sports bursaries totalling

£8,000 have been awarded to children and young people to enable and enhance their training opportunities, purchase equipment and support entry to competition at grassroots and performance level tennis.

Young people are the heart of the community and the future of the area. Through tennis we ensure that every young person has the opportunity to take part if they want to. There are currently over 500 players in our junior programme and our schools programme sees over 600 players every term.

### Schools' tennis festival

We are constantly looking at new ways of encouraging children to get involved. Most recently we hosted the Westway Sports Schools' Tennis Festival, with support from Sion-Manning RC Girls' School, in the immediate run up to Wimbledon. More than 900 children took part from 10 schools in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and surrounding boroughs.

We have a strong performance programme with several top 20 national ranked juniors competing nationally and internationally. Two of our juniors players have recently represented team GB in their respective age groups.

What is the central message of all this sporting activity? For me, tennis at Westway typifies what we are aiming to achieve with the whole

estate. Its constant evolution and reinvention has meant it is now a hub for innovation and performance, and we are proud of its contribution to the community. The success of tennis at Westway was not established overnight. It has been built up over years. It has taken dedication, resilience and understanding.

The 'Old Tennis Centre' in 1994 had four indoor tennis courts, funded by a range of Trusts and Foundation partners. The centre has developed significantly since then. In 2001 a further six tennis courts were added. We now have state of the art facilities that include eight indoor courts and two outdoor clay courts. Our Performance Centre is accredited by the Lawn Tennis Association and we take players with talent from Mini Tennis through to elite.

The tennis centre is thriving.

The success of tennis at Westway is a lesson for us all. Like the approach taken by Andy Murray or any successful tennis player, we had a vision for what we wanted, we understood what we needed to do to get there and we worked tirelessly with partners and supporters to get there.

Our challenge now is to take these vital ingredients and apply them to other aspects of developing our estate. Only then will we realise the true potential of what our estate has to offer.

## Adult learning at Westway opens door to a better life

FREE adult learning sessions at Westway Trust are opening up a world of new choices and opportunities for people who have struggled with basic skills since moving to the UK.

More than 30 people came along to taster sessions in English, maths, IT and sewing that Westway Trust organised as part of National Adult Learning Week.

Westway Trust's Learning & Skills Development Manager, Joe Freeman, said many of those who came along had lived in the UK for years but had been too focussed on survival to improve their lives with new skills.

"It can take people quite a long time after moving to the UK to overcome barriers such as the need to work and survive," said Joe.

"When people are in survival mode it's hard to think about learning new skills. They have to look after their family. Often, they go through years and years of struggle before they get the chance to learn.

"When they do it opens opportunities, reaching out and connecting with the community. It does something very valuable for them. It's a route into a different type of life whether that's training, volunteering or a new career.

"When you're focussed on working hard to bring up a family you can feel isolated. You haven't made those connections.

"Two ladies who had lived in the UK

for 25 years came for sewing. They couldn't fill in the forms. They are now signed up to English lessons and it is opening their eyes to the opportunities that exist.

"Several people came for one thing and then ended up doing others. The iPads and e-learning were a big hit because they make learning such fun," said Joe.

Of the people who came along to taster sessions at Westway Trust's offices in Thorpe Close, Ladbroke Grove, 24 have already said they now want to take courses in English, maths, IT and sewing.

Westway Trust has been providing and funding learning for the local community for more than 10 years, in partnership with the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

Last year, Westway Trust invested more than £130,000 in community learning and delivered 1,746 learning hours to 499 learners.

A survey of 144 of the adult learners at Westway Trust showed that since they started studying:

- 89% met new people
- 83% are better connected to their community
- 82% have become more interested in studying
- 80% have become more confident
- 78% have learned about other places where they can get help
- 70% have become more interested in work or volunteering

- 64% said their reading has improved
- 57% learned things that would help them find a job.

Adult Learners Week is a national celebration of lifelong learning and offers the perfect opportunity for adults of all ages and backgrounds to take a step towards learning something new.

"We would like to thank everyone who came along and everyone who made it possible," said Joe. "This includes the seven tutors and eight volunteers and two work experience students from St Charles College who were a great help."



Surath Ali enjoys a taster session in IT with tutor Catherine Fison at Westway Trust

## New community trustee

WESTWAY Trust's member organisations have elected Naomi Padi as one of their representatives on the Trust's Board of Trustees.

Naami (pictured) is a familiar face in the local area. She is Director of the Venture Community Association (VCA). The VCA is at the heart of the Golborne community and comprises the popular Notting Hill Adventure Playground, a busy community centre and London's only purpose-built steel band rehearsal and tuning facility.

"I love the area and talk to local people every day so have a good understanding of their priorities," said Naami. "I'm particularly interested in how we can help reduce health inequalities – evident in the difference in health and life expectancy between the south and the north of the borough."



"Environmental responsibility and sustainability are also important. There are few green spaces and little sustainable development in the area; through my role as a trustee I will promote an even greater emphasis on air quality and open access to green spaces – this is very important for local people, their health and their well-being."

"At Venture we have 800 people coming through the doors every week. A number of organisations deliver services at VCA and this enables me to link

with these and other organisations in the local community and build relationships."

Naami is one of three trustees elected by the Westway Trust's Member Organisations. These range from community groups and residents' associations to schools and sports clubs.

The Board of Trustees are the custodians of the 23 acre estate which the charity holds in trust for the benefit of the local community. They govern the work of Westway Trust and ensure the charity has a long term plan to deliver on its charitable mission. The trustees have overall responsibility for the charity and ensure it's running well and is doing what it was set up to do.



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*CGI of Kensington High Street with proposed new Picturehouse Cinema building.*



## Academy rich in talent wins wide acclaim

Pictures by Paul Lagan

THE weather might have been benign but the performance of talented Pimlico youngsters was hot and tempestuous when students from Pimlico Academy put on an excellent performance of *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare – part of the school's first summer arts festival. A man-made beach, in the playground, complete with sand and water, greeted the audience as the Lupus Street school opened its doors to family and friends for an afternoon and evening of artistic delights. Months of rehearsals went into the production and the students produced an accomplished performance, even if some of the audience who ventured a little too close to the stage got a little wet. But it went down a storm, as Shakespeare would have wanted. Also on offer to students and family were stalls selling cakes and refreshments. After the show, it was the school's noted musicians who took centre stage with fantastic performances from the various age-group steel bands, the Year 7 choir and two orchestras.



■ BARD AT HIS BEST: Pimlico students perform *The Tempest* – from the left, Kiara Kachingwe, Mercy Fienes Tiffin, Gabriele Banyte, Khush Quiney, Victoria Eniraiyetan, Naomi Simo, Graci Lee Pitterson, Leo Alves.

Pictures: Paul Lagan



■ STAGE PRESENCE: Pimlico Academy musicians, above left and centre, entertain audiences while actors, right, perform *The Tempest*. From left, Georgia Caine, Turan Urgz, Nasreen Gordon, Josue Simo, Kiara Kachingwe, Thomas Woodruffe, Victoria Eniraiyetan, Zakiyyah Deen, Graci Lee Pitterson.

# ‘Londoner through and through’ sets her sights on capital’s top job

PHILIPPA Roe, the Leader of Westminster City Council, has announced she is running to be the Conservative Party’s candidate for Mayor of London.

And housing, jobs, transport and security are going to be at the top of her agenda.

As leader of Westminster City Council, Ms Roe is responsible for what she describes as London’s “powerhouse”.

She said: “I want to take everything I have learnt from running what is often described as the capital’s capital and use my knowledge and experience for a London-wide approach.”

“Although it is often portrayed as an area for the rich and privileged, Westminster is home to some of the most deprived areas in the UK. Over half the population of Westminster was born outside the UK and a million visitors come to the borough each day from all over the globe.

## By LWN reporter

“Yet despite the challenges that such an environment creates, coupled with the savings we have had to make in the era of austerity, I am proud that in Westminster we have continued to innovate, protect frontline services and still deliver the lowest council tax in the country. I believe I am now ready to make the next step up and deliver successfully for all Londoners.”

She said a Roe administration at City Hall would concentrate on creating new homes for families, tackle long-term unemployment, upgrade London’s transport systems and ensure the capital’s security was robust to challenge the growing threat of extremism.

She said: “I am a Londoner through and through. I was born and brought up here, have spent my entire working and political career here and am now raising my family in what I consider to be the

world’s greatest city. I am passionate about what London and Londoners can achieve.”

“I want to make sure every child across the 32 boroughs and the City of London receive the best education possible, that we attract the best employers to the capital to ensure our school leavers and graduates secure jobs and that each one of our individual boroughs provides decent and affordable homes for our ever-growing population.”

Backing her candidacy, Baroness Anne Jenkin of Kennington, said: “Philippa is a capable and credible candidate. Not only was she born and brought up here, she has spent her entire working life in London, has run small businesses and worked in the City. She clearly understands not just as a resident but from the business perspective what is required to make sure London remains a successful global city for everyone.”

Ms Roe’s manifesto for London is expected to be launched shortly.



■ AMBITIOUS: Philippa Roe eyes the ‘next step’ in her career – to become Mayor of London

## Philippa Roe factfile

■ Philippa Roe was born in Hampstead and grew up in the borough of Bromley. Her mother is Dame Marion Roe DBE, who served on the Greater London Council before standing for Parliament and representing the constituency of Broxbourne from 1983-2005.

■ She is married to Stephen Couttie, CEO of specialist Merchant Bank, Collabrium Capital. They have ten-year-old twins.

■ Ms Roe was elected to Westminster City Council in 2006, quickly moving through the ranks. She was appointed Cabinet Member for Housing under the then leader, Sir Simon Milton, who became Boris Johnson’s chief of staff in 2008 before his untimely death in 2012. Roe also holds the following positions:

- Board member Royal Parks
- Deputy Leader Local Government Association
- Deputy Leader London Council
- Board Member London Local Enterprise Partnership and Member of the Infrastructure Delivery Board
- Chair of the West End Partnership





## INSIDE YOUR FREE ROYAL NEWSPAPER



**Give The Queen a break! Even a monarch must have a holiday**

PAGE 2



**Where to see your favourite royals at work this week**

PAGE 3



# Are YOU invited to Her Majesty's birthday lunch?



■ LUNCH APPOINTMENT: London's Pall Mall.

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HER Majesty The Queen requests the pleasure of the company of YOU for a luncheon on Pall Mall at 1.0 pm on Sunday June 12th 2016.

That's the invitation that will be dropping through the letter-boxes of 1,000 lucky people next year as The Queen hosts the biggest birthday party in the world, with up to 10,000 guests at trestle tables on The Mall and millions of others joining in all over the country.

To mark her official 90th birthday The Queen is to be guest of honour at a giant street party aimed at celebrating Her Majesty's patronage of 628 charities and organisations.

Of the 10,000 tickets, 7,500 will go to guests representing bodies ranging from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, Barnado's and the Amateur Swimming Association to the Royal Academy of Dance, the Girl Guides and the English Table Tennis Association.

Another 1,500 tickets will go to guests of sponsors including Boots and Marks & Spencer, who are covering the cost of the

**By Geoff Baker**

massive lunch, and 1,000 will be made available for a public ballot. The lucky winners of the luncheon lottery will get to join the party, which will also be attended by the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince William, Prince Harry and other members of the Royal Family.

Never in the history of The Queen's long reign has there every been a lunch like it and royal watchers are predicting that the ticket allocation could be over-subscribed 5,000 times as at least five million people are expected to try their luck to get a seat at the most sought-after event of the year.

The event is the brainchild of The Queen's grandson Peter Phillips, who is hoping that the Pall Mall lunch will prompt others to stage street parties all over the UK, with birthday celebration lunch tables stretching from Cornwall to the Orkney Islands.

"We hope that the lunch in The Mall will be a catalyst for the rest of the country to get involved," said Mr Phillips, who

is organising the street party through his events agency Sports Entertainments Ltd.

As well as thanking the Queen for her lifetime of service, the lunch on The Mall will raise money for a newly-created Patron's Charity, which will raise money for the good causes the Queen supports.

"We want to create a celebration based off the back of the successful Golden Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee where there was a groundswell of warmth and affection for the Queen," said Mr Phillips.

Already organisations across the nation have started to plan their own Queen's Birthday lunches to tie in with the Mall event – at which many of Britain's top stars are expected to provide the entertainment – and lead a massive chorus of singing Happy Birthday.

Adventurer Bear Grylls, chief scout of the Scout Association, which has the Queen as its patron, said: "We look forward to celebrating not only on The Mall, but right across the United Kingdom. As Chief Scout I

TURN TO PAGE 2



■ MOMENTOUS MILESTONE: The Queen's 90th birthday next year will be marked by a luncheon for 10,000 guests in Pall Mall.

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# LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

## Thousands enjoy Celebrating Fulham



■ **WHO SAID THAT?** A ventriloquist entertains the younger audience at Parson's Green family fun day, part of Celebrating Fulham.



■ **CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY:** Crafts and preserves tempt passers-by at this stall at Parson's Green family fun day.



■ **TAKE THAT:** Sponge 'splatting' proved ever popular at the Parson's Green family fun day.

# Borough's got talent! Festival tribute to creative community



■ **BALANCING ACT:** Poise and control are ably demonstrated by this talented uni-cyclist, entertaining onlookers during the Celebrating Fulham festival.

● By LWN reporter  
**JACK DIXON**

[jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk](mailto:jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk)

**T**HOUSANDS of visitors uncovered the weird and wonderful during Fulham's annual summer celebrations.

Artistic demonstrations, musical performances and guided tours of the area's rich cultural heritage were just a handful of the many events held as part of the Celebrating Fulham festival.

Eight days of entertainment kicked off with the North End Road summer market before coming to an end with a family fun day in Parson's Green.

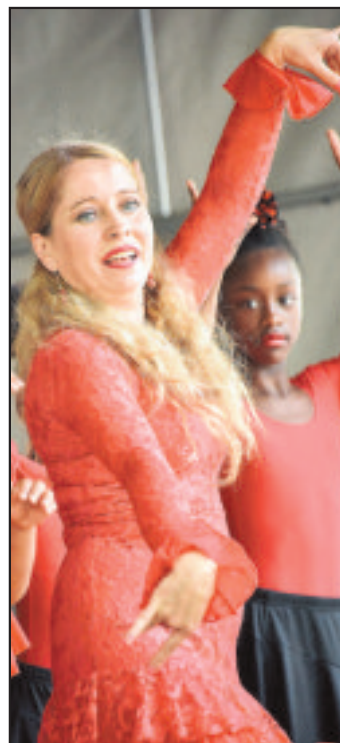
Film screenings, historical talks, wine evenings and craft clubs were also organised during a varied week of amusements designed to showcase some of Fulham's many hidden treasures.

The celebrations were rounded off with a fair on the Green last weekend, where hundreds of visitors enjoyed stalls, stage shows and rides as the borough was brought to life.

"It has been a fantastic week, catering to a really wide range of tastes," said councillor Andrew Jones, cabinet member for economic development and regeneration at Hammersmith and Fulham Council, which supported the Fulham Society and other community groups in staging this year's festival.

"It started off brilliantly, with more than 15,000 people enjoying the shopping, food and music at the North End Road traffic-free summer market and finished with the popular Fair on the Green, with some great events in between."

■ **Send your pictures of community events to the London Weekly News – email [news@londonweeklynews.co.uk](mailto:news@londonweeklynews.co.uk)**



■ **COLOURFUL EXPRESSION:** Dancers add to the colour and diversity of the cultural experience provided by Celebrating Fulham events, which combined to showcase the depth of creative talent in the borough. The week of events was widely acclaimed to be a great success.



# ROYAL LONDON

## Diary dates and appointments

# deserves a chance to get away



■ **COUNTRY RETREAT:** The Queen finds ample space, fresh air and a place to relax and unwind on her beloved Balmoral Estate in the beautiful highlands of Scotland.



difficulties of managing such a mobile population."

Of course The Queen does get some time to relax at Balmoral, driving her beloved Land Rover to picnics with the Duke of Edinburgh and other family at a hideaway wooden lodge. But even then she has to do the washing up. As her former Press Secretary Dickie Arbiter revealed, after one such picnic The Queen led him and the crockery to the lodge's kitchen and said: "I'll wash, you dry."

Hands that do dishes also always have to be ready at Balmoral for a sudden visit from a Prime Minister on some pressing matter of national urgency.

David Cameron, who has had to make such interrupting visits, was struck by The Queen's refusal to totally "chillax" on holiday. He revealed that when they shared a two-hour dog walk on the banks of Loch Muick to discuss an important affair of State, even then she gave more work to herself by insisting that they stop so that she could clear away leaves and sticks that were blocking a stream.

Mr Cameron must be hoping he does not have to add more to Her Majesty's holiday workload this summer by being the messenger regarding whether or not she should interrupt her break to return to "the London office" for two big events.

The first falls on August 15th, when the nation will mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. As we have previously reported, commemorations will be held in London with a principal

church service, a fly-past and a parade of veterans and the current Armed Forces past the Cenotaph and through Whitehall. As it is unlikely that many of the veterans will be present for a 75th anniversary of the end of the war – by which time the average age of those still alive will be 98 – and as The Queen herself served in the Forces during the war, some may want Her Majesty and Forces veteran The Duke of Edinburgh to be present for the salute and parade.

But those in the "give her a break" department of Government are understood to be working on a contingency plan under which The Queen and the Duke could be given the day off, by having the two younger members of the Royal Family who have actually experienced active service – namely Falklands vet Prince Andrew and Afghanistan helicopter gunship pilot Prince Harry – to step in for royal duties on the day. But then a Queen who is prepared to do her own washing-up may insist on attending.

The second potential "interruptus" presents a more difficult dilemma as nobody else can stand in for Her Majesty on September 9th, the day on which Elizabeth II becomes the longest-reigning monarch in British history, the day on which she breaks the record held for more than a century by Queen Victoria.

That Her Majesty will pass Queen Victoria's previous record reign of 63 years and seven months will be, many believe, an extraordinary milestone worthy of national

celebration.

But it falls in the middle of her holiday and, from The Queen's rarely-considered point of view, the historic day is historic in part because it is predicated on the death of great-great-grandmother – how seemingly would it be to have a Red Arrows fly-past and a bunch of pop stars partying on her Palace lawn on an occasion when she may see it as more appropriate to spend the day in quiet and reverential reflection?

As this column has argued before, there is nothing to stop the rest of us celebrating on September 9th and it should not be beyond the imagination of the authorities to put together some programme of events which are not dependent on The Queen's presence.

But, somewhat shoddily, with just eight weeks to go, the authorities have yet to come up with or reveal any such plan. Instead and as ever, the "oh, but we need The Queen" brigade are now said to be considering putting it all on her shoulders again and are pushing the monarch to hold a photocall at Balmoral.

Royal aides have indicated that the woman who pledged to the Commonwealth on her 21st birthday "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service", would rather like it if – for one day in 63 years at least – she is allowed the day off from such dedicated service and that celebrations are tied in with her 90th birthday next year instead.

In other words, it's her holiday; give her a break.

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website [www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk) but here's the London schedule for the week ahead.

### ● Tuesday, July 14th

**The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh** will give a reception for winners of The Queen's Awards for Enterprise at Buckingham Palace.

### ● Wednesday, July 15th

**The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron of the Royal Institute of Navigation, will present prizes and awards at the Institute's Annual General Meeting at the Royal Geographical Society.

**The Duke of Edinburgh** as Honorary Air Commodore, Royal Air Force Northolt, will receive the outgoing Station Commander, Group Captain Andrew Bacon and his successor Group Captain David Manning, at Buckingham Palace.

**The Princess Royal**, as Patron, Institution of Civil Engineers Charity Appeal, will hold a 'Shaping the World' Dinner at Buckingham Palace.

## WHERE TO SEE YOUR FAVOURITE ROYAL

**The Duke of Gloucester**, Vice Royal Patron, the Almshouse Association, will present the outstanding Patron's Awards at Mercers' Hall, Ironmonger Lane EC2.

**The Duke of Kent**, Chancellor, University of Surrey, will attend the First Degree Ceremonies at Guildford Cathedral, Stag Hill, Guildford.

### ● Thursday, July 16th

**The Queen accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh**, will officially open Chadwell Heath Community Centre, High Road, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

**The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh** will visit Sydney Russell School to open the new Kingsley Building, Parsloes Avenue, Dagenham, Essex.

**The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh** will attend a recep-

tion and lunch at the Broadway Theatre, Broadway, Barking, Essex.

**The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh** will officially open the Abbey Leisure Centre, Bobby Moore Way, Barking, Essex.

**The Duke of Edinburgh**, Senior Fellow, Royal Academy of Engineering, will attend the Awards Dinner at the Landmark Hotel.

**The Duke of Kent** will attend a Reception to mark the 75th Anniversary of Ognisko Polskie, 55 Prince's Gate, London SW7.

### ● Friday, July 17th

**The Duke of Edinburgh**, Honorary Life Member, Marylebone Cricket Club, will attend a Test Match at Lord's Cricket Ground, July 20th

**The Princess Royal** will attend an Installation Court Dinner at the Worshipful Company of Saddlers, Saddlers' Hall, 40 Gutter Lane EC2.

### ● Tuesday, July 21st

**Princess Alexandra**, Patron, Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest, will open the Simco Wing at 121-131 East India Dock Road, Poplar E14.




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## SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

BBC drama enters closed world of Woolf and friends

# Bloomsbury Group exposed (yes, there will be some sex)

by Geoff Baker

**I**N three paragraphs describing its new drama about the Bloomsbury Group, the BBC mentions eight times that it is also about sex.

Not just any old sex, mind, but “sexual freedom”, of which the group were apparently “pioneers” in their “extraordinary experiments in living” that included “the many kinds of love, in many combinations”.

Crikey. Somebody phone up the *Kama Sutra* and tell them there’s going to be a re-write.

But I know what you’re thinking, how many combinations are there and if the BBC is planning on dramatising the lot of them, what on earth sort of well-past-the-watershed time is this who’s-had-who series going out, half past four in the morning?

Relax. Although the BBC’s publicity department has tried hard to make *Life In Squares* sound like the arty equivalent of an Essex swingers’ club, there is much more to this three-hour series than the nudge-nudge, wink-wink insinuations of that old PR trick.

Most interesting, perhaps, is not who were the Bloomsbury Group but what were they?

Were they, as the encyclopaedias have it, “an influential group of associated English writers, intellectuals, philosophers and artists, the best known members of which included Virginia Woolf, John Maynard Keynes, E M Forster and Lytton Strachey, who lived, worked or studied together near Bloomsbury, London, during the first half of the 20th century”?

Or were they, as D H Lawrence contemptuously described them, “little swarming selves”?

Or were they, as a website designed to promote the group’s famous Charleston Farmhouse HQ in Sussex puts it, “a group of thinkers, writers and artists who banished stuffy Victorian conventions and created a unique Bohemian lifestyle against the background of the stunning South Downs”?

Whatever, we get the picture, and what I most want to know is not more about the bed-hopping but will the BBC be showing – as it doesn’t say – the scene with Virginia Woolf and her teeth?

As we know, tragic writer Woolf was mad, or at least went mad, or, as her biographer Priya Parmar better and more politically correctly puts it, “now we understand that Virginia was likely bipolar”.

Although the bipolar condition was first identified in France and Germany in the 1850s, nobody had told London about it by the 1920s and so when Virginia went somewhat off the rails her doctors called not for therapy, but for dentistry.

“In the early 20th century, some psychiatrists believed that mental illness – a lack of mental equilibrium, as they called it – could be traced back to an infection in the roots of the teeth,” says



■ **IT’S COVERED:** Above, left to right, Phoebe Fox, Lydia Leonard and James Norton are to star in *Life In Squares* for BBC Two, telling the complex story of the Bloomsbury Group and filmed at their Charleston Farmhouse headquarters in Sussex, pictured left. The drama also stars Rupert Penry-Jones, right. Central to the story is the writer | Virginia Woolf, above right.



Parmar. “The idea was called focal infection theory and Sir George Savage, Virginia’s psychiatrist, wanted to remove some of her teeth to try to cure her ‘madness.’ At first Virginia and her family rejected this theory but, in 1922, in an attempt to cure her, Savage pulled three of her teeth.”

Another fascinating fact from Priya Parmar is that Virginia Woolf wrote standing up. Not for the author of such classics as *Mrs Dalloway* and *To The Lighthouse* was the relative luxury of a chair and a desk.

“She preferred to stand,” says Parmar. “She would stand and smoke and write. It took her more than seven years to write her first novel, *The Voyage Out*.”

But back to the sex, for despite their invention of so many new styles of art and thinking, it’s the Bloomsbury Group’s fondness for love triangles that made them outrageous in their day – especially the love hexagon life of gay painter Duncan Grant, who lived in an open relationship with Virginia’s sister and fellow artist Vanessa Bell and who notched up at least five other lovers whilst somewhat trying his role as the love of her life.

“He was fascinating,” says Rupert Penry-Jones, the pin-up actor most usually found playing the hetero hero and best known as the dashing spy Adam Carter in the hit TV series *Spooks*, who plays Grant in later years in the drama.

“He was one of the best painters of his day and kind. He invented his style of painting and was certainly one of the pioneers of it. He was also gay and had a child with Vanessa Bell, who was

completely in love with him but he couldn’t love her back the way that she wanted.

“He did love her more than any other woman, but he preferred men. And that’s what attracted me to the part, this unconventional relationship with Vanessa and yet he was gay and a fantastic artist. However, it was the piece as a whole that most attracted me, I just wanted to be part of the drama.”

For London actress Phoebe Fox, playing the younger Vanessa – the main focus of the series – was an eye-opener.

“Vanessa is unfairly known as Virginia’s sister, but she was actually an amazing woman in her own right, a visionary woman,” she says. “She was

By exploring sexual freedom and identity they broke new ground, ground which we all live on today

very far ahead of most women of her generation, from the way she dressed to her open relationship with her husband, the art critic Clive Bell. Towards the end of when the drama is set she was known for wearing clothes that were literally just pinned together, which in the Thirties was very forward.

“She disregarded what was fashionable and foresaw the Swinging Sixties in terms of her attitude to family and

politics. She had an intense relationship with Virginia, who craved intimacy from her but Vanessa felt uncomfortable with that. At the same time she hugely admired and loved her, she yo-yoed between pushing Virginia away and craving her friendship and love.

“Clive Bell was her first love and he opened her eyes to how much of a sexual person she was. Sex was a huge part of her life but he only fulfilled her for a short time; he was never going to be the love of her life and the relationship came to a natural end.

“The love of her life was Duncan Grant and although they had a sexual relationship, it was largely platonic and in many ways that was her demise. Years of living with someone who you are in love with, but he can’t requite that. I found that very sad about her.

“No one thought that Vanessa would ever be in love with Duncan Grant, so it shows that you don’t have to be in love in a way that society says you should. She made loving a gay man work for her. There are issues in the series that we can all relate to, having an intense relationship with your sibling, a friendship that is blinkered to the rest of the world and unrequited love.”

Actress Eve West, who plays Vanessa in her later years, indicates that, whatever the publicity implies, the lavish series, which was filmed around London and at the famous Charleston home, is not a study of love triangles.

“*Life In Squares* is a story about art,” she states firmly. “It’s a story about artists, and about friends, lovers, men and women, painting, writing, sex, marriage, breaking the rules, telling lies

– it’s about honesty, freedom, imprisonment, convention, self expression, deep repression, desire, bravery, shame, liberty, longing, love and life.

“Duncan was the love of Vanessa’s life but it was much more complicated than unrequited love. Yes, they weren’t sleeping together but I feel that he did love her, deeply, profoundly. In the purest sense they were really soul mates; best friends, artistic partners, living companions, on so many levels the perfect match. But her longing for that true physical relationship must have been agonising, an ache felt all through her life.

“But it’s a fascinating story about a group of artists who were not only making art, they were essentially working out how to live.

“People say that Vanessa was the glue that held the group together and I was drawn to her story. Plus the opportunity of filming at Charleston, one of the most beautiful houses in England, was irresistible. Being in Vanessa’s studio amongst her old paint and easels which were completely untouched, as if she’d put down her brush and just nipped out for a cup of tea, that made me feel closer to the character. Sitting in her garden and wandering through her rooms was an extraordinary experience.”

Filming much of *Life In Squares* at Charleston Farmhouse was essential, says the drama’s writer, Amanda Coe.

“Charleston has a unique, magical atmosphere and we were so lucky to be able to film there. For the members of the group, shaping your living environment was absolutely key – and seeing the free way they just painted on the walls and doors, the homemade, spontaneous feel of its rooms, gives you an important sense of the way they were making it all up as they went along, making the best and freest lives that they could.

“At the same time there’s something poignant about the damp, the lack of luxury in the house. Despite the reputation for bed-hopping and the beauty, it’s all very English and a bit austere. These contradictions of Charleston, its eccentricities, have a strong flavour of what makes Bloomsbury distinctive.

“This group of friends had a huge influence on British culture in the early 20th century. Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant and Virginia Woolf were all key in bringing modernist art, visual and written, to our shores.

“You couldn’t join the Bloomsbury Group, but they had a great underlying ethos of honesty, tolerance and friendship that helped them to forge relationships that were remarkable in the light of the prejudices and taboos of the times they lived in. By exploring sexual freedom and identity they broke new ground, ground which we all live on today.”

■ *Life In Squares* starts on BBC2 on Thursday July 30th



This monthly column is produced by Peter Faulkner of Who Can You Trust organisation and sponsored by [Checkatrade.com](http://Checkatrade.com) Peter can be contacted on 07958-475392 or email [peterfau67@gmail.com](mailto:peterfau67@gmail.com)

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## iPhone bug

A BUG in Apple's operating system means anyone can crash your iPhone by simply sending it a certain string of characters in a message.

Action Fraud say iPhones can be crashed if they receive a text message containing one specific line of Arabic characters and symbols.

This causes an instant crash, reboot and then power off, leaving the Messages app unusable once the iPhone turns back on. According to reports it can also crash Apple Watch, iPad and Mac as well.

Currently there is no way to keep phones from falling victim, but if you're worried about being attacked you can protect yourself by turning off notifications for text messages, or hiding the previews that show up in banner notifications.

## Bogus police

POLICE have stepped up patrols around the South Bank and London Bridge after reports of bogus officers stealing money from tourists.

Criminals are claiming to be plain clothes officers who target visitors to attractions such as the Globe Theatre and the Shard. It is believed they show them a bogus warrant card.

The Metropolitan Police said it had recorded six incidents between March and May.

The bogus officers are reported to be Eastern European and there have been similar incidents reported in Westminster, Lambeth, and near Tower Bridge.

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[tradingstandards@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@westminster.gov.uk)

**Kensington & Chelsea TS**  
Tel: 0207-361-3002  
[tradingstandards@rbck.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@rbck.gov.uk)

**Hammersmith & Fulham TS**  
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[tradingstandards@rbck.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@rbck.gov.uk)

**Citizens Advice**  
Tel: 03454 04 05 06

**Mail Preference Service**  
Tel: 0845 703 4599  
[www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk)

**Telephone Preference Service**  
Tel: 0845 070 0707  
[www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)

**Action Fraud**  
Tel: 0300 123 2040  
[www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

# Cost of a free Blue Badge

**By Peter Faulkner**  
**RESIDENTS in Westminster and neighbouring West London boroughs who qualify for the Blue Badge parking permit face being ripped off by unscrupulous businesses.**

The Government investigated sites where people were charged £50 and more for a Blue Badge application form when in fact the form is totally free.

The Blue Badge is available to disabled people in London and other areas to allow free parking and access to services and facilities. It can be applied for through a local authority or the GOV.UK website and is free.

But some websites are charging fees of around £50 for processing applications even though this is quite legitimate. All they do is carry out the same simple application process that applicants can do themselves online or via their local authority.

The Government warned applicants to bypass these sites and apply direct through their local authority.

Blue Badge parking has become big business for

local authorities like Hammersmith & Fulham who have had to employ a specialist agency to stop widespread misuse of the Blue Badge.

Because of misuse right across the borough Hammersmith & Fulham employ Blue Badge Fraud Investigation (BBFI) based in Kensington. In the first six months of their operation 47 Badges were seized, a rate of almost two per week. Currently over 40 summonses have been issued and thousands of pounds worth of fines and costs levied on the cheats.

Activity takes place on the streets for four days in each week, with some of these being at weekends to cover the three football grounds in the borough and the busy Westfield Shopping Centre. This approach keeps down costs whilst maintaining effectiveness.

Very few badges seized are actually fake. The majority of them are valid badges being used illegally by friends or family.

Due to the constant change in design of badges it is difficult for enforcement officers to spot fakes.

Hammersmith & Fulham Council has brought a total of nearly 370 successful prosecutions against people dishonestly using blue badges, and issued nearly £90,000 in fines against offenders since BBFI was recruited.

This year alone, 139 blue badges being used illegally were seized. Residents are advised that they should report suspected blue badge misuse to the council's fraud hotline.

Among examples of people caught elsewhere in London for fraud were an estate agent and a lawyer, and a driver using the badge of a dead relative.

Kensington & Chelsea council said the number of falsely held residents' permits it recovered annually had soared in the past two years from 144 to 253.

Westminster council said residents' and disabled permits were being misused in equal numbers and recently seized half a dozen badges from a firm of estate agents. It has mounted 17 prosecutions in the past 12 months.

## Have you been the victim of Ferrari shares fraud?

WEALTHY residents may have been duped by a sophisticated gang of fraudsters into buying fake shares in Italian car giants Ferrari.

A leading scientist at a London Hospital has told police he lost £176,000 in the fraud which used half-truths to convince people the shares were genuine.

Three companies – all thought to be run by the same gang – advertised the deals and one of them, J C Sterling & Roth, used an address at Dorset Street, Westminster.

It is thought the other fake companies – Charlton Fitzgerald, Vanquish Wealth Management and Larse Capital – operated from the same address.

Charlton Fitzgerald was set up to sound like Cantor Fitzgerald, the legitimate broker regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, who have issued a warning to people not to do business with these companies.

Fiat Chrysler, the firm that owns Ferrari, said it will sell some shares to the public this year, but it has confirmed that these shares are not yet available.

Ferrari will be listed in New York, although it may have a secondary listing in



Europe. British investors cannot normally take part in overseas flotations and would have to wait for the shares to be traded on the stock market, when they could buy via a UK stockbroker.

The man who invested around half his life savings in the scheme said the money was being setting aside to fund science scholarships for young people.

Once all his money was transferred, he had expected a certificate to prove the shares existed, but the advisers

weren't able to provide them.

That's when he searched the internet and found warnings on the FCA website about the Ferrari share scammers. He then phoned his bank to report fraud.

If you're suspicious of a financial firm, check the FCA register to confirm the firm has been regulated. If a firm does not appear on the register but claims it does, contact the FCA's consumer helpline on 0800 111 6768.

## Be aware and you can beat the conmen

**FOR the next few weeks residents in West London get the chance to find out how scammers and fraudsters operate - and how they can be beaten**

This is national Scams Awareness Month and the theme is Don't Be Rushed Don't Be Hushed which runs until the end of July.

Some frontline scam fighters estimate the total cost to consumers of mass-marketed scams could be as much as £5 billion.

The truth is because reporting levels are as low as

5 per cent for some types of scams we don't really know the real figure.

Talking in hundreds, thousands, millions even billions of pounds undervalues the true cost of scams: the blight they bring to lonely lives, the emotional trauma for families, the widespread loss of confidence among consumers.

Sometimes the impact is ruinous: a lifetime of careful planning and saving wiped clean at the stroke of a pen, in the click of a mouse.

But Scams Awareness Month will be promoted in Westminster, Chelsea, Pimlico and Fulham by Trading Standards officers hoping to alert the public to the types of frauds and scams occurring right across London every day.

It's about consumers refusing to be rushed by scammers and creating a community of informed, residents alert to the dangers of dealing with conmen and fraudsters.



# WINE & DINE

The food and  
drink page for  
West London

## The porky dish that pulls in the punters

By Keeley Bolger

**A**FFORDABLE, tasty and versatile, it's no wonder our appetite for pulled pork shows no sign of waning.

Everywhere you look, on London menus from fast-food chains and high-street favourites, all the way up to high-end restaurants, it seems some version of the American barbecue classic will be there.

Indeed, you can order it in soft bun at a Beefeater restaurant, liven up your picnics with a packet of Waitrose Pulled Pork Sausage Rolls, or slurp on New Covent Garden Tennessee Pulled Pork & Bean soup at lunchtime.

While our craving for this flaky delight is evidently well catered for out and about, affable TV chef Tom Kerridge thinks it's a doddle to recreate at home too.

Cooked over a low temperature for a long time, there's limited faff required, and the slow cook time means you can get away with using a cheap cut of meat like pork shoulder.

"A dish like pulled pork really could be the answer for busy families who still want to enjoy a Sunday meal together," says Kerridge, who is behind Love Pork's new pulled pork campaign.

"All you need to do is apply a rub to the pork, stick it in the oven and then go enjoy your Sunday, while the oven does all the hard work. It's much less fiddly than a roast, and pulling it apart with two forks at the end is easier than carving."

But is "easy" for a Michelin-starred chef "impossible" for me, an enthusiastic but hit-and-miss foodie, who hasn't cooked meat at home for three years?

To put Kerridge's claim to the test, I assemble my ingredients and in a moment of misplaced confidence, invite two of my committed carnivore friends round for lunch, to help me and my husband, a lapsed vegetarian, chow our way through a big juicy batch.

With a sizeable six-hour cook time ahead, I heave the meat, which I marinated overnight, into a casserole dish and bung it into the oven - and then leave for a morning yoga class, slightly fearful that my house might burn down while I'm gone.

Fortunately, when I open the front door an hour-and-a-half later, a welcoming porky aroma greets me, suggesting that the meat is bubbling along just nicely.

With so few steps involved in making pulled pork though, I can't help worrying that I've left something crucial out of the process, and compensate by making a complicated home-made coleslaw, potato salads and slicing a ridiculous number of bread rolls.



### ■ TOM Kerridge and his perfect pulled pork

can't make a pig's ear out of a dish which is supposed to look as 'undone' as pulled pork is, so there's no chance of ruining the fruits of my labour at this late stage.

To serve, we leave the juicy shreds in the casserole dish and then load up our buns, adding mounds of coleslaw and washing it all down with plenty of cold beer for good measure (and in case it's inedible).

To my surprise, it's not inedible - it's actually pretty good, and we duly pig out and demolish a whopping 1kg of pork between four of us (which is disgusting or impressive, depending where you sit on the diet spectrum).

Easy to pull off (no pun intended!), affordable and crowd-pleasing, I'd definitely plump for pulled pork again.

● Find more at [www.lovepork.co.uk/campaigns/pulled-pork-tom-kerridge](http://www.lovepork.co.uk/campaigns/pulled-pork-tom-kerridge)



### MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

#### Mackerel ceviche with cucumber and sweet potato crisps

*Serves 4*

**C**EVICHE is a great fresh starter and perfect for sharing. It's not strictly a Mexican creation: Peru and Columbia would also claim to have invented it, but the main ingredients are commonly found in Mexico.

Sweet potatoes, or plantain, cut thinly like crisps, are a nice addition with which to scoop up the diced, briefly-marinated fish. I quite like to serve all of the accompaniments on the side so that you can mix in as much, or as little, as you like, to taste.

**250-300g mackerel, skinned, boned and cut into approximate 1cm cubes**

**Juice of 3 limes**

**1tbsp of soda or sparkling mineral water**

**1-2tbsp olive oil**

**Salt and freshly ground white pepper**

**1 small red onion, very finely diced**

**1 large green chilli, seeded and finely chopped**

**2-3tbsp chopped fresh coriander**

**¼ cucumber, halved lengthways then cut into small dice**

**To serve**

**2 sweet potatoes, washed**

**Vegetable or corn oil for deep frying**

Preheat about 8cm of oil to 160-180C in a large thick-bottomed saucepan or electric deep-fat fryer.

Meanwhile, slice the sweet potato lengthways, with the skin on, using a mandolin, to the thickness of about one-fifth of a centimetre. Deep fry for 3-4 minutes, or until crisp, turning in the oil with a slotted spoon during cooking, then transfer on to kitchen paper and scatter with a little salt.

Mix all of the ingredients with the mackerel and season to taste. You can serve the ceviche directly on the sweet potato crisps, or simply put it in a bowl and let your guests help themselves.





# TALK OF THE TOWN

MUSIC ★ THEATRE ★ REVIEWS

The entertainment scene  
across London

## Pamela bows out after 40 glorious years at the opera

**P**AMELA Binns will perform for the last time tonight, July 16th, at the Royal Opera House in *La Boheme*, a show of which she has been a part for over 40 years.

Now aged 80, the much sought-after actress is retiring from the stage to concentrate on her film and TV career.

I caught up with the wonderful Pamela at her West London home, where she told me about her life and career.

"When I started you couldn't get places at drama school because they were all going to the people coming out of the forces. I wrote to one or two drama schools and they said I would have wait for four or five years."

"I lived in Lychfield in Staffordshire so I just walked down the road to the local rep and asked them to take me on. I got a job as the assistant stage manager for £2 a week. I swept the stage, made cups of tea for everybody and was a general dogsbody."

"Then in November they said *Cinderella* would be coming to the theatre at Christmas and I could understudy the leading role. I was terribly excited and learned all the lines and everything."

"Then amazingly on Christmas Day they rang and said that the leading lady had been involved in a car accident so I was to open as *Cinderella* on Boxing Day. I couldn't do the singing but I could do the dancing so the principal boy then kindly sang both parts."

After taking more repertory work, Pamela's career very quickly became established on our screens, where she could be seen in many of the classic BBC TV shows of the late 50s and early 60s, including *Peeps*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Amelia*. Alongside her TV career Pamela wanted a new challenge so in 1973 she took the opportunity to grace the famous stage at Covent Garden's iconic Royal Opera House. She told me how it came about.

"I met a girl who worked there, I think they were called extras in those days. I asked her how I could become one and she told me to write to the stage manager, who at that time was a fierce lady called Stella Gitty. I



By **NICKY SWEETLAND**  
LWN Theatre Critic

wrote to her for about two years and she'd always reply very politely but say I was far too small. Then suddenly I got this typed letter asking if I would like to audition for Mr John Copley's *la Boheme*. I went to this audition along with hundreds of people. I was very lucky because the two girls I went in with wouldn't move when the director asked them to. I think they were petri-



■ **FAVOURITE:** Pamela Binns has been a regular at the Royal Opera House.

fied. I waltzed around Copley until he said 'stop, stop you're making me dizzy'.

"We heard they only wanted one girl and she was to be five foot ten, dark and sparking Italian."

"I'd muttered something about two Berlitz lessons to Copley and a week later the stage manager lady rang me up and said, 'Miss Binns, I've got good news for you'."

Pamela had been cast as Fluffy Lady Number Two alongside the star of the film *Lady Godiva Rides Again*, Pauline Stroud, who was to play Fluffy Lady Number One. The pair, who are the same age, have both performed in every revival of the opera ever since, clocking up over 1,200 performances between them. Stroud has only managed to do more due to Pamela enduring a horrific accident at the Opera House during one of the runs.

On the night in question she had walked past the children's dressing room and unusually they had in unison wished her the traditional theatre good luck gesture of "break a leg". Unfortunately, that was exactly what she did.

"That evening I went up with a shawl over my head to do Act Three. The stage manager had lowered the floor back stage and hadn't told us. I stepped into nothing and I then I didn't walk for three years. I broke my legs and it all went wrong."

After the accident, Pamela subsequently recovered enough to get back to the Opera House but this time she was to play the role of an elegant lady, the role she's played ever since. This year however, Pamela is excited to announce that she has been promoted to playing café owner Madame Momus.

"I have a white mop cap like Mrs Tiggy Winkle and I'm running the café Momus in the scene in Act Two."

Although retiring from the Royal Opera House, Pamela continues to be in demand for her screen work and has recently finished filming the Dylan Thomas classic *Under Milk Wood* alongside former Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock, singer Charlotte Church and the Welsh Rugby Team.

Pamela has the most infectious character and I could have stayed all day listening to her stories of the stars from behind the curtains. Finally, I ask Pamela what's so magical about performing at the Opera House?

"The thrill of the performance on that wonderful stage with the wonderful music and orchestra is terribly exciting. It's a lovely job."

■ *La Boheme*'s final performance is on 16th of July, with celebrated tenor Plácido Domingo returning to conduct

## Little theatre has key to a great lunch

**Cleopatra's Key**  
Bridwell Theatre \*\*\*

I FOUND another little diamond of a theatre on my travels last week.

It is the Bridwell Theatre, a gorgeous little venue just off Fleet Street. I'd been invited to watch a new musical called *Cleopatra's Key*, being presented by Hatstand productions and starring the company's creators Lily Lowe-Myers and Robyn Cooper.

The girls have been friends since early childhood and formed the company back in 2012. They were joined once again for this production by Omar Shahryah, who composed their last musical, along with some films the trio have made together.

The story is set in ancient Egypt, where we find the two girls are handmaidens in the tomb of Cleopatra after her untimely demise at the hands of a poisonous asp. As is traditional they have been to sworn to fol-



■ **FAMILY:** Lily Lowe-Myers and Robyn Cooper.

low their queen into the afterlife, but both girls get cold feet and really don't think death is the right path for them. The show is a hilarious and touching look at female friendships and truthfully portrays the competitive and jealous elements present in most women's relationships. Lowe-Myers and Cooper worked really well together but there were some moments where the dialogue needed to be sharper, the movement a little less cartoon-like and the singing stronger.

The music was an interesting mix with bits of sand dance in-

terspersed with vaudeville. I think it would have worked well without it, but that said there were some nice melodic moments, particularly the final duet called *Open the Door*, which cemented the girls' affection for each other.

As a lunch break treat this is really worth a look. The show is being performed until the 14th July at 1pm and lasts for just 45 minutes, which means you can get your theatre fix during a working day. You are even invited to eat your lunch during the show.

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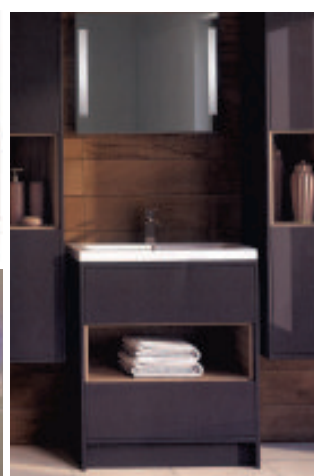
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# TALK OF THE TOWN ★ The entertainment scene across London

## london Listings

### Scaffold tours at Banqueting House, Whitehall

To July 17  
This is your chance to wear a hard hat, climb the exterior scaffold, get up close to Inigo Jones' Banqueting House. You'll get to see the beautiful details up close and learn more about our expert care of this building. Tours at 8.00, 11.00 or 12.00, each lasting one hour. Cost is £5. To book, call 020 3166 6646 and select option 1 for school bookings British Sign Language interpretation on Friday 17 July tours. Website: [www.hrp.org.uk/BanquetingHouse/WhatsOn/scaffold-tours](http://www.hrp.org.uk/BanquetingHouse/WhatsOn/scaffold-tours)

### Importance of Being Earnest at the Vaudeville Theatre

To November 7  
David Suchet stars as Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's much loved masterpiece. Directed by Adrian Noble, Wilde's superb satire on Victorian manners is one of the funniest plays in the English language – the delightful repartee and hilarious piercing of hypocrisy and pomposity can still make you laugh out loud. Two bachelor friends, the adorable dandy Algernon Moncrieff and the utterly reliable John Worthing JP, lead double lives to court the attentions of the exquisitely desirable Gwendolyn Fairfax and Cecily Cardew. The gallants must then grapple with the riotous consequences of their deceptions, and with the formidable Lady Bracknell. [www.importanceofearnest.com](http://www.importanceofearnest.com)

### Andre Rieu's 2015 Maastricht Concert at Vue, Fulham Broadway

July 17th - 23rd  
The king of waltz performs in his home town joined by his famous Johann Strauss Orchestra.

### Buckingham Palace summer opening

August 1st to September 27th 2015  
Visit Buckingham Palace, the official London residence of the Queen, this summer. Buckingham Palace is one of the world's few remaining working royal palaces - don't miss the chance to see it. Explore the lavishly furnished State Rooms, containing some of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection. Highlights include paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens, Vermeer and Poussin, Canaletto and Claude. Sculpture by Canova and Chantrey. Exquisite examples of Sèvres porcelain. Some of the finest English and French furniture in the world.

### Falstaff at the Royal Opera House

To July 18th  
Italian baritone Ambrogio Maestri, acclaimed for his performances as Verdi's ageing knight, leads the first revival of Robert Carsen's colourful production, conducted by Michael

Schönwandt. Giuseppe Verdi's final opera tells the tale of a portly knight with an irrepressible appetite for life, love and laughter. Falstaff crowned a career that spanned more than fifty years. Arrigo Boito – with whom Verdi also collaborated on *Otello* and the revisions for Simon Boccanegra – created a sparkling libretto based on Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and Henry IV Parts I and II. Verdi matched the libretto's sprightliness with a score full of quicksilver switches in mood and tempo. Falstaff had its premiere in Milan in 1893 when Verdi was 79 and was instantly hailed as a masterpiece. Robert Carsen's production is set in 1950s England and draws out the warmth, love of food and comedy at the heart of the opera. Falstaff moves from comic intrigue, as the 'merry wives' outmanoeuvre the scheming men, to tender romance and infectious merriment.

### Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium

To October 10th  
The iconic music of Frank Sinatra is brought to life at one of the capital's most iconic venues in Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium. This multi-media concert, which has the support and endorsement of the singer's family, marks the centenary of Sinatra's birth and features all of his greatest hits including *Fly Me To The Moon*, *New York, New York* and *My Way*. Staged at the West End venue where the legendary entertainer made his 1950 British singing debut, Sinatra: The Man and His Music combines rare and original master recordings with cutting edge technology and never before seen performance footage to celebrate Sinatra's hugely successful music career. Featuring a 24-piece orchestra and a company of 20 dancers, the show takes audiences from Sinatra's formative years to his later life with the help of interviews, family photos and films.

### Lovebox music festival, Victoria Park, east London

July 17th and 18th  
Over 2 days in East London's Victoria Park, London, Lovebox Festival is a celebration of the best of British and international music talent, dance and the arts. After smashing the charts with their debut album *'Home'* a few years ago, Rudimental went back into their Hackney studio to work on their second LP. Now they're Lovebox's Friday headliners.

### Prudential RideLondon

August 1 and 2  
Developed by the Mayor of London and his agencies, Prudential RideLondon is a world-class festival of cycling. There is no other closed-road event like it that combines the fun and accessible element of a free family ride in central London with the excitement of watching the world's best professional cyclists race in the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey Classic and Prudential RideLondon Grand Prix.

## Paris meets her match in Elvis – and pleases mum

**BORN-AND-BRED** Londoner Mica Paris is wowing audiences around the country in the new musical *Love Me Tender*.

Paris, who was born in Islington and now lives in Holland Park, made her name as a soul singer from a young age and went on to have huge success both behind the mic and on our screens, presenting shows like BBC's *What Not to Wear* and *Gok Wan's Miss Naked Beauty* for Channel 4.

*Love me Tender* is new musical from the producers of *Hairspray* and *Jersey Boys* and is billed as a feel-good show featuring Elvis Presley's greatest hits. Set in a small town in 1950s America, the story is a funny take on the healing qualities of rock and roll.

I caught up with Mica while she was on the Wimbledon leg of the tour and she told me how it has been going so far.

"It's so good I can't tell you. It's such a good cast because they are such a laugh, every night the show's hilarious. All the reservations I had about doing theatre have gone out of the window. I'm having such a blast and I can't believe that I put it off for 20 years. I was convinced that theatre wasn't right for me so I'm so glad I've been proved wrong and this is the show for it."

I asked Mica if she was an Elvis fan.



By NICKY SWEETLAND  
LWN Theatre Critic

"My mum is. Basically my mum doesn't think I've done anything with my career until this moment. For her I've arrived. You're talking about a serious hard-core fan."

Being brought up by someone who loved the King so much must have had an effect. I ask Mica what her favourite Elvis hit would be if she had to choose one.



■ TENDER: Mica Paris.

"For me, *Love Me Tender* is pretty special but I have to be honest, the one I'm singing in this show is really special. I'd never heard this song before. It's called *There's Always Me* and I had to google it to find Elvis singing it and his version is amazing. Those two are my favourites because I don't care who you are, it will have an effect on you, the way that song sounds. When I sing *There's Always Me* there's not a dry eye in the house."

Mica stars alongside ex-East-Enders Shaun Williamson, who since leaving the soap, has shown his prowess as a singer and comedy actor in productions of the *Take That musical Never Forget* and the highly acclaimed *One man, two Guvnors*. Mica tells me that the pair get on like a house on fire.

"Sean is amazing and he's got such a good voice. He's a very giving actor. He's very generous and he's a good guy, talented beyond belief and just wonderful to be with. Everyday we have a cackle, and he has me in stitches in the wings. He's hilarious."

■ *Love me Tender* is on tour until the end of September, visiting The Churchill Theatre in Bromley from the 31st August-5th September, and the New Victoria Theatre Woking from the 7th September-12th September. Visit [lovemetendermusical.com](http://lovemetendermusical.com)

## Liza and Sir Bruce are friends reunited

SIR Bruce Forsyth, one of the UK's best loved stars and entertainers, has been announced as the host who will interview American showbiz legend Liza Minnelli on stage in September when the star performs her one-off evening at the London Palladium.

Now Liza is following in the footsteps of Hollywood movie greats Sylvester Stallone, Al Pacino, John Travolta and Arnold Schwarzenegger by getting up-close and personal with her British fans on stage in the West End.

Sir Bruce said: "I am absolutely delighted to be spending an evening in the company of one of the truly great entertainers of our age, someone I am also lucky to know as a dear friend. I am looking forward to guiding her on a trip down memory lane on the stage of the greatest theatre in the world – The London Palladium – where both of us have been lucky enough to perform many times over the years. She's got some great stories to tell and I'm sure it's going to be a truly unforgettable evening."

Liza was a special guest star who sang *New York New York* to Sir Bruce on his 80th birthday BBC TV show, *Happy Birthday Bruce*, in 2008, saying: "He's a



■ GOOD FRIENDS: Liza Minnelli and Sir Bruce Forsyth.

marvellous, wonderful man who I consider my buddy and who I just love."

Currently in her sixth decade of performing, Liza Minnelli, winner of four Tony Awards, an Oscar, a Grammy, two Golden Globe Awards, an Emmy and a BAFTA, remains one of the world's most consummate performers and beloved entertainers. In film, on record, on stage and on television, Liza has won critical acclaim, a multitude of fans, and recognition from her peers in show business, giving new dimension and credibility to the

word 'superstar.'

She said: "I'm always so excited to return to Britain, which I've considered to be a second home for many years. I have so many friends there and I look forward to being back again for these special intimate evenings. Whenever I do concerts people always say they want to hear about me growing up, being on Broadway, in the movies, the people I've met and worked with... so this will give me a chance to share a lot more of those stories. I can't wait to see you all again!"

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